

November 17, 2000

Dear Tribal Leader:

In keeping with the Indian Health Service's (IHS) commitment to tribal consultation, I am reconvening the Level of Need Funded (LNF) Workgroup to begin discussions concerning the identification of a methodology to distribute the \$40 million available to the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund (IHCIF) in fiscal year (FY) 2001. In addition, I invite you to attend any of the three regional consultation sessions that I have scheduled to solicit your comments on LNF activities and the distribution of the IHCIF. In March, I will conduct a final national meeting to listen to the recommendations of tribal leadership concerning the IHCIF.

The dates and locations for the three regional consultation sessions are:

Central

Date: December 12-13, 2000
Location: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
1300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
Reservations: (612)370-1234 or (800)233-1234
Reference: Indian Health Service Consultation
Cut-off Date: December 1, 2000

West

Date: December 19-20, 2000
Location: Caesars Palace
3570 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
Reservations: (702)731-7222 or (800) 634-6661
Reference: Indian Health Service Consultation
Cut-off Date: December 1, 2000

East

Date: January 9-10, 2001
Location: Sheraton Four Points Hotel
1201 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Reservations: (202)289-7600 or (800)325-3535
Reference: Indian Health Service Consultation
Cut-off Date: December 8, 2000

Enclosed is a registration form to be used for each of the consultation meetings. Please complete a separate form for each meeting that you will be attending. The information contained on the registration form will be used to produce name badges and materials for each meeting.

Each meeting will be one and one-half day sessions beginning on Tuesday morning and ending on Wednesday at noon. The format will be one of presentation on the first morning which will include question and answer sessions and the afternoon will be spent in small group discussion sessions. The second morning will be presentation and summation. A record of these meetings will be recorded and compiled in a report for consideration by the LNF Workgroup. The LNF Workgroup will meet in early February 2001 to review and consider the recommendations from the regional consultation sessions. From this meeting, the LNF Workgroup will prepare its findings and submit its recommendations to the Director.

The next step in this process will be to convene a National Consultation Meeting. This meeting will be held March 6-7, 2001, in San Diego, California. Registration information will be sent to you upon selection of a host hotel. During this meeting, a report will be provided to attendees that will identify concerns raised by Tribal Leaders during the regional consultation meetings. Responses to the concerns will be provided by the IHS. This report and the LNF Workgroup recommendations will be the subject of the dialogue between Tribal Leaders and me.

I urge each of you to attend one of the regional consultation sessions as well as the national consultation session. These sessions have been scheduled to accommodate full participation by Tribal Leaders and to afford time for the consultation process before the allocation of the FY 2001 IHCIF. It is critical to finalize the method of distribution of these funds and disburse them in order to assure that essential health services are provided on a timely basis.

Sincerely yours,

Michael H. Trujillo, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director